Amite River and Tributaries Ecosystem Restoration Study

- **Study Status:** FCSA signed 4 Mar 05. Feasibility study is ongoing.

- **Study Cost**:

Recon	$ 100,000
Feas (Fed/NonFed)	$5,200,000
Total	$5,300,000

- **FY06 Budget: $0**

- **FY06 Funds Required:** $850,000

Project Fact Sheet

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District, CEMVN-PM-W
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Date: March 2005

Amite River and Tributaries Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study

STUDY AUTHORITY: The study was authorized by a resolution of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U. S. House of Representatives adopted on 23 July 1998.

STUDY SPONSOR: The feasibility cost sharing agreement was signed on 2 Mar 05. The non-Federal sponsor is the Pontchartrain Levee District. Almost all of the non-Federal contribution will be work-in-kind.

STUDY LOCATION: The study area includes the 2,200 square mile Amite River drainage basin in southeastern Louisiana and southwestern Mississippi. The basin includes portions of East Baton Rouge, Ascension, Livingston, East Feliciana, St. Helena, Iberville, St. James and St. John the Baptist Parishes in Louisiana and Wilkinson, Franklin, Lincoln, and Amite Counties in Mississippi. Major urban centers in the study area include Baton Rouge, Baker, Zachary, Gonzales, Sorrento and Denham Springs, Louisiana. Portions of the Amite River have been classified as a scenic stream.

STUDY PURPOSE: The feasibility study will determine the most practical alternative to restore the Amite River Ecosystem to a less-degraded, more natural state. This effort will consider the physical, and biological aspects of the site, within the context of the entire watershed, to address all related issues and constraints. The aspects of water quality, erosion control, recreation, and the avoidance or minimization of undesirable impacts resulting from urbanization and other present and future watershed activities will be investigated. A comprehensive approach will be taken considering aquatic as well as wetland and terrestrial complexes to provide for long-term health of a more natural and diverse system. The inflated heel-splitter clam, a threatened species, exists in the basin, and its habitat is likely being affected by the degrading stream conditions.

STUDY FEATURES: The project provides for ecosystem restoration through reversing the effects of a wider floodplain and shallower water depths, reduction in river length and the resulting steepend river gradient, reduction of the sinuosity through meander cut-offs, increased turbidity, and an increase in the unvegetated areas and man-made changes within the river corridor.

STUDY COST:

Total Estimated Study Cost	$ 5,300,000
Reconnaissance Phase (Federal)	$ 100,000
Feasibility Phase (Federal)	$ 2,600,000
Feasibility Phase (Non-Federal)	$ 2,600,000

STUDY BUDGET/SCHEDULE: The study is unbudgeted in FY 2006; however, FY 2006 funds of $850,000 are required to continue into the feasibility phase of the study.

ISSUES: None.